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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As chairman of the Islamic Group to the United Nations, I have the honour to inform you that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held their annual coordination meeting on Thursday, 1 October 1998, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The question of Lockerbie, inter alia, was discussed at the meeting.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs expressed their satisfaction that the United States of America and the United Kingdom had accepted the proposal by regional and international organizations for the trial of the two suspects to be held in a third, neutral country (Netherlands). The Ministers call upon the two countries to enter into direct negotiations with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with a view to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1192 (1998), including trial arrangements and security measures relating to the two suspects.

While welcoming the Libyan position, which is characteristically flexible and realistic in its approach to the issue, the Ministers affirmed their full and utter support for the following legitimate Libyan requests with a view to putting an end both to the serious physical and moral harm incurred by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to the suffering of its people as a result of the sanctions imposed on it.

These demands are:

1. That agreement should be reached on guarantees that the two suspects will not be extradited, transferred or moved to the United States of America or the United Kingdom for any reason and that they will serve their term of punishment, in the event of their conviction, in the Netherlands or the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

2. That agreement should be reached on clarification regarding the witnesses and their identification by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

3. That agreement should be reached on guarantees of the legal, religious, personal, social and medical rights of the two suspects throughout the various stages of the trial, as well as on guarantees of their security and safety during their travel to and from the Netherlands and during their stay there;

4. That the start of the trial should be the end of this question, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya having responded to all requests of the Security Council, and that sanctions should be finally lifted as soon as the two suspects appear before the court.

We request the Security Council to take the above into account in its consideration of this matter. We should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nassir Abdul-Aziz AL-NASSER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Qatar
Chairman of the Islamic Group